

REMARKS

Applicants cancel claims 44-61 without prejudice or disclaimer and add new claims 62-67. Accordingly, claims 62-67 are all the claims pending in the application.

Claim rejections

Claims 44-61 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which application regards as the invention.

Claims 44-49 and 53-58 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Martinez et al. (U.S. Patent No. 3,661,304) in view of Noguchi (U.S. Patent No., 6,428,862).

Claims 50-52 and 59-61 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Martinez and Noguchi, as applied to claims 44-46 and 53-55 above and further in view of JP 05-329,423).

Applicants respectfully submit that these rejections of claims 44-61 are moot in view of the cancellation of these claims.

New claims

Claim 62

Claim 62 recites, *inter alia*, “a feeding system which feeds the liquefied material to the distribution unit, wherein the feeding system comprises: a main container which stores the liquefied material; a recovery container which recovers liquefied material ejected from the nozzles during a cleaning operation; a means for feeding the liquefied material from the recovery

container to the main container; and a means for feeding liquefied material from the main container to the distribution unit.” Applicants respectfully submit that the cited references do not disclose these features recited above.

Martinez is directed to an apparatus for initiating formation of fluid drops. Martinez discloses a main liquid supply tank 10 connected to drop generator 12 through pipe 14; and an auxiliary or starting liquid supply tank 20 that is connected to pipe 14 through pipe 22, and thus connected to drop generator 12 (FIG. 1, column 2, lines 58-68). Further, Martinez discloses a pressure impulse generator 25 that is mounted for deliver of fast rise time shock to the fluid in the tank 20. The pressure impulse generator 25 generates an hydraulic shock that is transmitted to the drop generator and immediate formation of drops in drop generator 12 (column 3, lines 1-19). Thereafter, the liquid is supplied to the drop generator from the main liquid supply tank 20 (column 2, lines 12-19). However, Martinez does not disclose recycling and recovery of the liquefied material as recited in claim 62.

Noguchi is directed to UV curable ink preferably used in ink-jet recording and photopolymerization initiator having high solubility in water. However, Noguchi does not disclose the features missing Martinez.

In view of the above, Applicants submit that claims 62 is allowable over the cited references.

Claims 63 and 64

Applicants submit that claims 63 and 64 depend from claim 62, and therefore are allowable at least by virtue of their dependency and the additional limitations recited therein.

Claim 65

Claim 65 recites, *inter alia*, a movable regulator connected to the main container and to the distribution unit, wherein a movement of the regulator regulates a distribution of pressure between the regulator and the distribution unit, thus altering a pressure in the at least one chamber and altering an ejection pressure of the nozzles.” Applicants respectfully submit that Martinez does not disclose these features of claim 65 recited above.

On the contrary, Martinez disclose that the pressure impulse generator 25 driven by a driving rod 30 that downwardly impacts the plunger 26 to create a desired shock on the liquid in the tank 20.

Noguchi also does not disclose the features missing Martinez.

In view of the above, Applicants submit that claims 65 is allowable over the cited references.

Claim 66

Applicants submit that claims 66 depends from claim 65, and therefore is allowable at least by virtue of its dependency on claim 65 and the additional limitations recited therein.

Claim 67

Claim 67 recites, *inter alia*, “wherein the feeding system supplies different distribution pressures p_1 and p_2 during a printing operation and supplies pressure p_3 during a cleaning operation, wherein $p_1 > p_2$ and $p_3 > p_1$.”

Applicants submit that Martinez and Noguchi are completely silent about applying a pressure (p_3) that is greater than the pressure applied during depositing of the liquid drops.

Furthermore, on page 4, lines 11-14 of the February 25, 2008 Office Action, the Examiner asserts that it would have been obvious to clean the filter by supplying a pressure, p3 greater than the first two pressures. In response, Applicants respectfully submit that:

To establish a prima facie case of obviousness, three basic criteria must be met. First, there must be some suggestion or motivation, either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to modify the reference or to combine reference teachings. Second, there must be a reasonable expectation of success. Finally, the prior art reference (or references when combined) must **teach or suggest all the claim limitations**. The teaching or suggestion to make the claimed combination and the reasonable expectation of success must both be found in the prior art, not in Applicant's disclosure. M.P.E.P. 2143 citing *In re Vaeck*, 947 F.2d 488, 20 USPQ2d 1438 (Fed. Cir. 1991).

As such, the Examiner has not satisfied the burden of establishing prima facie obviousness at least because the Examiner has not satisfied the “all limitations” prong of the three prong test for obviousness. Specifically, the Examiner has not shown that the teachings of Martinez suggest the invention as a whole including at least the limitations that are discussed above. Neither Martinez nor Noguchi discuss any benefits of any cleaning operation or any cleaning operation involving outputting liquefied material from the nozzles.

In view of the above, Applicants submit that claim 67 is allowable over the cited reference.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.114(c)
U.S. Application No.: 10/500,298

Attorney Docket No.: Q108550

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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